



(For immediate release)

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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNOUNCES 45 PERCENT OF  
MISSOURI'S TRASH DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL DISPOSAL**

*Although Missouri is generating more trash*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, AUG. 6, 2004 – The Missouri Department of Natural Resources recently announced that Missouri is keeping an estimated 45 percent of its trash out of landfills.

“Missourians continue to focus on recycling and reusing trash instead of just throwing it away. Missouri is diverting an ever larger share of its wastes away from landfill disposal,” said Steve Mahfood director of the Department of Natural Resources. “Businesses are able to make new products using materials that would have discarded.”

During the past 14 years, the department has provided grants and information to help create and sustain recycling services across the state. Cities, counties, businesses and schools have all played a part in improving the way Missourians manage their solid waste.

The solid waste management districts also contribute to the success of waste reduction. The districts put local solid waste management plans into practice. Within 14 years, the number of Missouri communities with recycling collection services has increased from 68 to 410. Communities with yard waste collection services also increased from 127 to 333.

In 2003, the department estimates each Missourian threw away 1.09 tons of waste. This is down from 1.33 tons per person in 1990. However, the total amount of trash generated statewide has increased from 10.9 million tons in 2002 to 11.2 million tons in 2003.

“Although Missouri is recycling more trash, we are still creating more trash,” said Mahfood.

Waste reduction tips for businesses include:

- Order supplies in bulk to minimize packaging;
- Print documents on both sides of the paper;
- Recycle office scrap paper or reuse it for copying internal memos and documents, or for scratchpads;
- Conduct only “green” meetings, using reusable cups, glasses, plates and utensils; and
- Buy recycled paper and cartridges for printers.

Waste reduction tips for households include:

- Buy food and supplies in bulk;
- Buy concentrated products;
- Buy high quality, long-lasting products;
- Avoid purchasing over-packaged products;
- Buy products in refillable or reusable containers;
- Donate old magazines to nursing homes or hospitals; and
- Remove your name from junk mailing lists by writing to the Direct Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

The department has several fact sheets, technical bulletins and brochures on the Web that can provide additional suggestions for waste reduction. For additional ways to reduce waste in your business or home, visit the department’s Web site at [www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/publist.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/publist.htm) or contact Dennis Hansen at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-5401.

To find out what recycling services are available in your area and what materials they collect, check the department’s Web site at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/rrr/RecycDoliststatewide.pdf> or call Katy D’Agostino at (573) 751-5401.

For news releases on the Web, visit [www.dnr.mo.gov/newsrel](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/newsrel). For a complete listing of the department's upcoming meetings, hearings and events, visit the department's online calendar at [www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/calendar.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/calendar.htm).

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